

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior revisions and listings of claims in the subject application, and please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently amended): A method of making an ePTFE tubular structure comprising the following steps:

forming a tube of polytetrafluoroethylene;

longitudinally stretching said polytetrafluoroethylene tube to form an expanded polytetrafluoroethylene tube, wherein said expanded polytetrafluoroethylene tube is comprised of fibrils having a first length and oriented in a longitudinal direction of said expanded polytetrafluoroethylene tube and nodes having a first length and oriented in a circumferential direction of said expanded polytetrafluoroethylene tube;

placing ~~the~~ said expanded polytetrafluoroethylene tube circumferentially exterior to a longitudinal foreshortening and radially expanding mechanism;

applying radial pressure from said longitudinal foreshortening and radially expanding mechanism; and

radially expanding and longitudinal foreshortening said expanded polytetrafluoroethylene tube over said longitudinal foreshortening and radially expanding mechanism; to increase said first length of said nodes of said expanded polytetrafluoroethylene tube to a second length in the circumferential direction and to shift to reorient said fibrils of said expanded polytetrafluoroethylene tube non-longitudinally by hingeably rotating said fibrils of said expanded polytetrafluoroethylene tube to form an ePTFE tubular structure with reoriented fibrils;

wherein said reoriented fibrils of said ePTFE tubular structure have a second length substantially equal to said first length of said fibrils of said expanded polytetrafluoroethylene tube.

Claim 2. (Currently amended): The method according to claim 1 wherein said expanded polytetrafluoroethylene tube is heated to a temperature of between about 86°F and 650°F during the radially expanding and longitudinal foreshortening step ~~radial expansion~~.

Claim 3. (Canceled)

Claim 4. (Canceled)

Claim 5. (Currently amended): The method according to claim 1 wherein said reoriented fibrils have a ~~are~~ substantially the same shape length of ~~as a shape of~~ said originally longitudinally oriented fibrils radially expanding and longitudinal foreshortening.

Claim 6. (Currently amended): The method according to claim 1 ~~[[4]]~~ wherein said ePTFE tubular structure with reoriented fibrils is capable of being longitudinally elongated by ~~to~~ at least about a factor of 1.5 ~~times its length~~.

Claim 7. (Currently amended): The method according to claim 6 wherein said ePTFE tubular structure with reoriented fibrils is capable of being longitudinally elongated by ~~to~~ at least about a factor of 2.0 ~~times its original length~~.

Claim 8. (Currently amended): The method according to claim 7 wherein said ePTFE tubular structure with reoriented fibrils is capable of being longitudinally elongated ~~expanded~~ by ~~to~~ at least about a factor of 2.5 ~~times its original length~~.

Claim 9. (Currently amended): The method according to claim 1 ~~[[4]]~~ wherein said ePTFE tubular structure with reoriented fibrils is capable of radially expanded by ~~to~~ at least about a factor of 1.5 ~~times its original radius~~.

Claim 10. (Currently amended): The method according to claim 9 wherein said ePTFE tubular structure with reoriented fibrils is capable of radially expanded by ~~to~~ at least about a factor of 2.0 times its original radius.

Claim 11. (Currently amended): The method according to claim 10 wherein said ePTFE tubular structure with reoriented fibrils is capable of radially expanded by ~~to~~ at least about a factor of 2.5 times its original radius.

Claim 12. (Canceled)

Claim 13. (Canceled)

Claim 14. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 1 further including a step of suspending and heating said expanded polytetrafluoroethylene tube after longitudinal expansion and prior to placing said expanded polytetrafluoroethylene tube on said longitudinal foreshortening and radially expanding mechanism.

Claim 15. (Original): The method according to claim 14 wherein said heating step increases structural integrity of said ePTFE tubular structure.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): A method of making an ePTFE tubular structure comprising the following steps:

forming a tube of polytetrafluoroethylene;

longitudinally stretching said polytetrafluoroethylene tube to form an expanded polytetrafluoroethylene tube, wherein said expanded polytetrafluoroethylene tube is comprised of fibrils oriented in a longitudinal direction of said expanded polytetrafluoroethylene tube and nodes oriented in a circumferential direction of said expanded polytetrafluoroethylene tube;

placing ~~the~~ said expanded polytetrafluoroethylene tube circumferentially exterior to a longitudinal foreshortening and radially expanding mechanism;

applying radial pressure from said longitudinal foreshortening and radially expanding mechanism;

radially expanding and longitudinal foreshortening said expanded polytetrafluoroethylene tube over said longitudinal foreshortening and radially expanding mechanism;

heating said expanded polytetrafluoroethylene tube to a temperature of between about 86°F and 650°F during radial expansion; and

reorienting said fibrils non-longitudinally to form an ePTFE tubular structure with reoriented fibrils that are hingeably rotated about said nodes.

Claim 17 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 16 wherein the step of heating said expanded polytetrafluoroethylene tube is at a temperature of between about 200°F and 350°F during radial expansion

Claim 18 (Currently amended): A method of making an ePTFE tubular structure comprising the following steps:

forming a tube of polytetrafluoroethylene;

longitudinally stretching said polytetrafluoroethylene tube to form an expanded polytetrafluoroethylene tube, wherein said expanded polytetrafluoroethylene tube is comprised of fibrils oriented in a longitudinal direction of said expanded polytetrafluoroethylene tube and nodes oriented in a circumferential direction of said expanded polytetrafluoroethylene tube;

placing ~~the~~ said expanded polytetrafluoroethylene tube circumferentially exterior to a longitudinal foreshortening and radially expanding mechanism; and

applying radial pressure from said longitudinal foreshortening and radially expanding mechanism to radially expand said expanded polytetrafluoroethylene tube over said longitudinal foreshortening and radially expanding mechanism to reorient said fibrils

non-longitudinally to form an ePTFE tubular structure with reoriented fibrils that fibrils are hingeably rotated about said nodes;

wherein said ePTFE tubular structure with reoriented fibrils has an altered nodal orientation having a greater length between said nodes as compared to ~~after radial expansion~~ ~~than before~~ said expanded polytetrafluoroethylene tube longitudinal.

Claim 19 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 18 further comprising:
heating said expanded polytetrafluoroethylene tube to a temperature of between about 86°F and 650°F during radial expansion.

Claim 20 (Currently amended): The method according to claim 1 wherein said reoriented fibrils of said ePTFE tubular structure are longitudinally straighter than said fibrils of said expanded polytetrafluoroethylene tube.